

**REMARKS**

In response to the Office Action mailed October 12, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-7 and 13-15.

Claims 1-3, 8-11, and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Merrill or Chi et al. However, the Office Action goes on to state that claims 5-7 ad 13-15 are objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Although Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection of claims 1-3, 8-11, and 16-18, for purposes only of expediting prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claims 4 and 5. Claim 9 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 12 and 13. The dependency of claim 6 has been changed to depend from amended claim 1 and the dependency of claim 14 has been changed to depend from amended claim 9. Claims 4, 5, 12, 13, 17, and 18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In view of these amendments, Applicant believes that claims 1-3, 6-11, and 14-16 should now be in allowable condition.

Serial No.: 10/658,215  
Conf. No.: 2710

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Art Unit: 2811

**CONCLUSION**

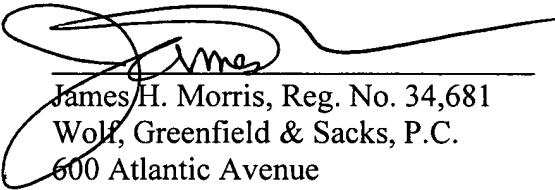
A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

*Francois Roy, Applicant*

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Docket No.: S1022.81038US00  
Date: January 6, 2006  
x01/12/06x